28. Licensing of carts.

MR. W. A. J. MILNER (*Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association*) said that in the neighbouring island of Ceylon, the registration of all carts was an accomplished fact for many years and there was no difficulty over it. In Travancore itself all boats plying in the backwaters were licensed and it was difficult to see why carts should not be licensed too. It would serve the purpose quite well, even though the fee levied was a small one. The object of the member in making this proposal was only to improve the control of traffic. Under existing conditions, in the case of an accident in which a motor vehicle and a cart were involved, there was no means of identifying the cart, whereas the motor vehicle was easily identified. By licensing all carts this defect would be easily removed.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Milner, I quite sympathise with you in the matter of the carts in possession of the roads and this is more noticeable in respect of carts coming from the neighbouring Tamil British Districts into Travancore, drivers of which do not seem to understand the rule of road as it is understood by Travancore drivers. This is a serious difficulty and the very fact that there is a passing to and fro of carts not belonging to Travancore makes the question of registration still more difficult. The Commissioner of Police and the Chief Engineer are examining this question since the last Assembly and they too find that there are very many practical difficulties in the way of registration of carts.

You refer to registration and control as exercised in Ceylon. It will help us very much if you could obtain and send us particulars of what exactly is done in Ceylon and how it works there. I shall go into the matter again with the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Engineer.

29. Inconveniences of traffic on public roads.

THE REV. KRIMBELL JOSHUA (*Member, Nominated*) said that the closing of roads to traffic in connection with Royal tours and such functions caused great inconvenience to the public. The holding of cattle-markets on public roads was another source of trouble. Stray cattle were also causing much inconvenience to traffic. The interference of toll collectors who obstructed the passage of vehicles was equally obnoxious. So far as motor traffic was concerned, there were also the dangers of rash driving and overloading of carriages. It would be a very salutary measure if some restrictions were made in the issue of licenses to drivers of motor vehicles. A discrimination could very well be made against unruly and misbehaving drivers.

Nor were these the only troubles of traffic on the public roads. The maintenance of the roads had to be more carefully attended to by the Public Works Department. Heaps of metal and gravel could often be seen stacked in the middle of roads. This had to be prohibited. Another thing which was necessary was to lop off branches of trees hanging over roads lest bonnets of motor cars should be torn off and bundles of articles taken in carriages should topple down as happened often.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Krimbell Joshua, I thought you were representing the interests of the South Travancore Christian community, and I do not think that community alone suffers from the usual disabilities of road traffic. They share them with all the other peoples of Travancore. I notice a tendency on your part to try to impress upon Government that single instances constitute universal practices. Let me reassure you on that point. I do not think there are many roads in Travancore that I have not been over several times, and I have yet to discover that there are so many boughs hanging low enough to rip up the tops of cars. It has never happened to me yet. Also, on every road I have been upon, I have seen several carts laden with bundles of straw and such other articles, and I have not seen one bundle topple over on account of overhanging boughs.

You speak of the inconvenience caused by the occasional holding up of traffic. I thought every body would joyously put up with this little inconvenience on the rare special occasions when this becomes necessary. The inconvenience has been minimised to the utmost. Traffic is held up only in sections and only for very brief

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intervals. Traffic is not held up for any great stretch of road. As I told you it is sectional, and notice of it is given in time, long before any such temporary closure arises.

In regard to cattle I quite agree with you that straying cattle are a nuisance to traffic ; but all the cattle in the country do not belong to Government. It is the duty of the owners of cattle to keep them tied up. If every cow in the State belonged to Government I have no doubt Government would be able to do it.

You talk of licenses of drivers as though the suspension of licenses, the endorsing of licenses, the revocation of licenses and the refusal of licenses are new things. Let me tell you that these also are matters of daily occurrence, which the Police Commissioner deals with in his control of traffic.

You talk of tolls. We all have to suffer from them. We all have to be held up sometimes. Bamboos are placed across the way. Such little inconveniences people have to put up with for the privilege of enjoying the very fine roads of Travancore.

You talk of metal stacks. I am able to tell you that the Chief Engineer has recently issued orders that all road metal should be carefully stacked either well away on the road side or in bays specially made for the purpose alongside of the roads.

30. Prevention of the oppression of the poor by rowdies.

MR. KRIMBELL JOSHUA (*Member, Nominated*) said that journey along the public roads particularly in rural parts was very unsafe owing to the ravages of rowdies. The police were often found to be in league with these people. More effective control on the part of the police was therefore absolutely necessary. Police arrangements had particularly to be made in markets.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Krimbell Joshua, here again you talk of wholesale and universal oppressive acts of rowdies extending all over the country and as a matter of daily occurrence everywhere. You will be helping the police a great deal in putting down such acts where they do occur, if you would bring these affairs when you discover them to the notice of the nearest Inspector of Police or Assistant Superintendent of Police as the case may be. However, I shall have your representation communicated to the Commissioner of Police and I am sure he will do whatever is needed in the matter.

31. Agricultural needs of the Tovala taluk.

MR. ARUMUKHA PERUMAL PILLAI MATHEVAN PILLAI (*Member, Tovala taluk*) began with saying that Government were not paying adequate attention to the conservation of the minor irrigation tanks in the Tovala taluk. Most of the tanks had been allowed by Government to be auctioned away without regard to their irrigational utility. The remaining tanks at least had to be preserved. Arrangements had also to be made for a judicious distribution of water from the channels.

The member next turned to cattle rearing, as regards which he said that what was most urgently wanted was the opening of a sufficient number of grazing grounds. Much of the degeneration of the cattle in the country could according to him be set down to want of proper grazing grounds.

The member next said that the artificial manures used by the Agricultural Department in their experimental farms were not gaining in popularity because the experimental operations were very costly. The yield from the farms was out of all proportion to the cost of the manures and the cost of demonstration. It would therefore be a better arrangement in the opinion of the member if the manures were sold by co-operative societies. It was incidentally pointed out that the Agricultural Department had failed in the treatment of plant pests.

Dealing with other measures for the fostering of agriculture in Nanjinad, the member suggested that the burden of taxation on paddy lands might be reduced, and that taxes might be remitted in seasons of failure of crops or when the lands lay fallow. Agricultural loans had also to be issued more judiciously in accordance with

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